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What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus for forming images of originals on sheets, comprising:

5 a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;

a memory for storing sheet types in association with said plurality of feeders; and

a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet types stored in said memory.

10 2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory stores order of priority between the sheet types, and wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet types and the order of priority stored in said memory.

3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, and wherein the sheet types stored in said memory are set through said operating section.

20 4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, and wherein the order of priority stored in said memory is set through said

operating section.

5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a detector for detecting a size of an original, and wherein said memory stores sheet sizes in association with said plurality of feeders, and wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the size of the original detected by said detector, and the sheet types, the order of priority, and the sheet sizes stored in said memory.

6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said selector carries out selection of one of said plurality of feeders upon start of an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said selector carries out selection of one of said plurality of feeders when a feeder being used has run short of sheets during an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said selector selects a feeder that contains sheets of the same type as the type of the sheet contained in the feeder which has run short of sheets.

9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said selector selects a feeder other than a feeder containing sheets of at least one predetermined type.

10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a post processor for carrying out post processing on sheets having images formed thereon, and wherein said selector selects a feeder in  
5 accordance with a type of the post processing carried out by said post processor and the sheet types stored in said memory.

11. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selector selectively executes either a  
10 first mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of a first type, or a second mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of the first type and feeders containing sheets of a second type.

15 12. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming images of originals on sheets, the method comprising:

a first step of storing sheet types in association  
20 with said plurality of feeders;

a second step of storing order of priority between the sheet types; and

a third step of selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in  
25 accordance with the sheet types stored in said first step and the order of priority stored in said second step.

13. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image forming apparatus includes an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, the sheet types stored in said first step being set through said operating section.

14. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image forming apparatus includes an operating section on which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, the order of priority stored in said second step being set through said operating section.

15. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a fourth step of detecting a size of an original, and a fifth step of storing sheet sizes in association with said plurality of feeders, and wherein said third step comprises selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the size of the original detected in said fourth step, the sheet types stored in said first step, the order of priority stored in said second step, and the sheet sizes stored in said fifth step.

16. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said third

~~step comprises carrying out selection of one of said~~  
plurality of feeders upon start of an image forming  
operation by said image forming apparatus.

17. A method of controlling an image forming  
5 apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said third  
step comprises carrying out selection of one of said  
plurality of feeders when a feeder being used has run  
short of sheets during an image forming operation by  
said image forming apparatus.

10 18. A method of controlling an image forming  
apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said third  
step comprises selecting a feeder that contains sheets  
of the same type as the type of the sheet contained in  
the feeder which has run short of sheets.

15 19. A method of controlling an image forming  
apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said third  
step comprises selects a feeder other than a feeder  
containing sheets of at least one predetermined type.

20 20. A method of controlling an image forming  
apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said image  
forming apparatus includes a post processor for  
carrying out post processing on sheets having images  
formed thereon, and said third step comprises selecting  
a feeder in accordance with a type of the post  
25 processing carried out by said post processor and the  
sheet types stored in said memory.

21. A method of controlling an image forming

apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming images of originals on sheets, the method comprising:

a first step of storing sheet types in association  
5 with said plurality of feeders; and

a second step of selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet types stored in said first step;

10 wherein said second step comprises selectively executing either a first mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of a first type, or a second mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets  
15 of the first type and feeders containing sheets of a second type.

22. A storage medium storing a control program for controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming  
20 images of originals on sheets, the storage medium being readable by the image forming apparatus, the control program comprising:

a first code for storing sheet types in association with said plurality of feeders;

25 a second code for storing order of priority between the sheet types; and

a third code for selecting one of said plurality

of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet types stored in said first code and the order of priority stored in said second code.

5        23. A storage medium storing a control program for controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming images of originals on sheets, the storage medium being readable by the image forming apparatus, the control  
10 program comprising:

        a first code for storing sheet types in association with said plurality of feeders; and

        a second code for selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in  
15 accordance with the sheet types stored in said first code;

        wherein said second code executes either a first mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of a first type, or a second  
20 mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of the first type and feeders containing sheets of a second type.